

103D CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
103-131

SOLDOTNA AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 1993

Mr. HOLLINGS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation, submitted the following

R E P O R T

OF THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ON

S. 1192



AUGUST 24, 1993.—Ordered to be printed

Filed under authority of the order of the Senate of August 2 (legislative
day, June 30), 1993

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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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REPORT

[To accompany S. 1192]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to which was referred the bill (S. 1192) to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to release restrictions on the use of certain property conveyed to the city of Soldotna, Alaska, for airport purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill, as reported, would authorize the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to waive existing deed restrictions on the use of certain airport property conveyed to the city of Soldotna for airport purposes, to permit the city to sell some of the land which is surplus to the airport needs, and to use the proceeds of the sale to develop, improve, maintain, or operate the airport.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

In 1963, the U.S. Department of the Interior deeded some Federal land to the city of Soldotna to be used for an airport. Over the years, the city has built an airport which is used by private pilots as well as by the Alaska State troopers, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Despite this usage, the activity level at the airport has decreased significantly in recent years. Costs to operate the airport continue to rise, while

revenues from its usage are decreasing. In the past 6 years, the airport has lost more than \$150,000 per year.

The deed stipulates that the land must be used for airport purposes, or it is to revert to the Government. The city is interested in selling some of the land which is not needed for airport purposes, and in retaining the revenues for use at the airport. The reported bill, therefore, would allow the city to sell the land, but it would require that the city get fair market value for the land, and that the revenues from the transaction be used solely for airport needs.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On July 1, 1993, S. 1192 was introduced by Senator Stevens and cosponsored by Senator Murkowski, and was referred to the Committee. At the Committee's executive session on August 3, 1993, the bill was considered in open session and ordered favorably reported without objection.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS

The reported bill authorizes the Secretary to grant releases from the terms, conditions, restrictions and reservations contained in the deed of conveyance dated December 12, 1963, under which the United States conveyed certain property to the city of Soldotna. The releases would require that the city must receive fair market value for the property and that any such amount received is to be used for the development, improvement, operation, or maintenance of a public airport.

ESTIMATED COSTS

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

AUGUST 6, 1993.

Hon. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1192, the Soldotna Airport Improvement Act of 1993, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 3, 1993. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to grant releases from restrictions that were imposed when certain lands were conveyed to the city of Soldotna, Alaska, for airport purposes.

CBO estimates that no cost to the federal government or to state or local governments would result from the enactment of this bill. Enactment of S. 1192 would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to this bill.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John Patterson, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the legislation, as reported.

Number of persons covered

This legislation authorizes a waiver of existing restrictions and conditions to allow a property transaction to occur from which the Soldotna Airport will benefit. The improvements or development enabled by the property sale will affect the users of the airport, in particular general aviation pilots and State and Federal agencies.

Economic impact

The legislation should improve the economy of the city of Soldotna by providing a new source of funding for the airport.

Privacy

This legislation will not have an adverse effect on the personal privacy of any individuals affected.

Paperwork

This legislation will not increase paperwork.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title

This section states the short title of the reported bill as the "Soldotna Airport Improvement Act of 1993."

Section 2. Release

This section authorizes the Secretary to grant releases from the terms, conditions, restrictions, and reservations in the deed of conveyance dated December 12, 1963, which conveyed property to the city of Soldotna, AK, for airport purposes. These releases are authorized notwithstanding section 16 of the Federal Airport Act (as in effect on December 12, 1963), which stipulated that land will revert to the Government if it is not used for airport purposes; are subject to the Airport Surplus Property Act of 1949, which provides that a release may be made if there is a determination that such release will not detract from the original purpose of the property transfer; and are also subject to section 3 of the reported bill.

Section 3. Conditions

The conditions for any releases granted by the Secretary under section 2 are that the city must receive fair market value for any property sold (as determined by regulations issued by the Secretary), and that any amount received shall be used for the devel-

opment, improvement, operation, or maintenance of a public airport.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that the bill as reported would make no change to existing law.

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